



# The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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## A message from Supervisor Smyth...

Welcome to our fall newsletter. In these pages you will find a review of some things that have happened since our last newsletter as well as a look at recent initiatives and upcoming events. Given publishing constraints, we cannot provide late breaking news in the Providence Report. However, we do distribute more timely information through our web site, which now has a different address: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence).

Coming next year, we will offer another newsletter option. In addition to our regular Providence Report, we are planning to start an electronic publication. "Providence Online" will be an e-newsletter that will fill in the information gaps between Providence Reports. If you would like to subscribe, please e-mail us at [provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov) and use "e-newsletter subscription" as the subject line. We look forward to providing more ways to keep Providence residents informed about events and issues in our district and Fairfax County. –Linda Smyth ▪

## Providence Land Use Seminars

Over the spring and summer, Providence District Supervisor's Office hosted four land use seminars to educate and inform residents of on-going and upcoming projects throughout the district. Supervisor Smyth thanks residents and staff for making the seminar series successfully well attended. The Providence Supervisor's Office will continue to host workshops and seminars and residents are welcomed to make seminar or workshop suggestions.

More information on upcoming and ongoing events is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ▪

## Fairfax Families Care

### Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Fairfax Families Care was formed by a regional coalition of governments, schools, PTAs, businesses, nonprofit and nongovernmental officials in support of Hurricane Katrina survivors who have made their way to Fairfax County. The coalition hopes to match survivors with 200 jobs, 100 long term housing opportunities and admit up to 400 children into Fairfax County schools. To help fund and facilitate this welcoming effort, an outlet for generosity has been established for donations through the Northern Virginia Community Foundation.

Donors can write checks to "NVCF, Fairfax Families Care Fund" and mail to Fairfax Families Care Fund, C/O Northern Virginia Community Foundation, P.O. Box 11225, McLean, Virginia 22102-9225.

More information is available on the county's Katrina Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/Katrina](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/Katrina); the Fairfax Families Care Web site at: [www.fxhc.org/](http://www.fxhc.org/) or by calling 703-817-7771, TTY 711. ▪

*Supervisor Smyth joins Chief Neuhard and Fire Station 30 for the 2005 National MDA "Fill the Boot" campaign and Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.*



## 2005 Providence District VolunteerFest

### *Volunteerism in Action*

Supervisor Smyth is delighted to host the 2005 Providence District VolunteerFest Event on October 22, in conjunction with Volunteer Fairfax VolunteerFest® Projects and the *National Make a Difference Day*. The day's events will showcase the spirit of volunteerism throughout the district and celebrate *Volunteerism in Action*.

In light of the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, residents will have many donation opportunities, in various forms and at various locations during the day, including at the Merrifield Festival. Another somber reflection during this event is the grief and loss experienced by our military personnel, serving overseas, who have lost loved ones in the Gulf Area. At the James Lee Community Center, volunteers will have the opportunity create a care kit and write notes for their adopted soldiers.

*Supervisor Smyth and the 2005 Providence District VolunteerFest Committee  
invite you, friends, family and co-workers to enjoy this year's celebrations.*

- **Food Drive** - Supervisor Smyth's Office/Food for Others  
*8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax - Food and book donations will be received all day from October 18 – 23 at this location.*
- **Book Sale** - Friends of the Oakton Library  
*2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton (Unity of Fairfax Church) - Book sale will take place from 9a.m. – 3p.m.*
- **Removing Invasive Species from the W&OD Trail** - Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority  
*Trail portion located in Providence District – Project details are available from Park Manager Chris Pauley at 703-729-0596.*
- **Park Projects** - Fairfax County Park Authority and Volunteer Fairfax VolunteerFest®  
*Parks located in Providence District – Projects details are available from Park Manager Dan Sutherland at 703-324-8597.*
- **Children's Winter Clothing Collection** - Human Services Council/Fairfax County Public Schools  
*Schools located in Providence District – Donations will be accepted from October 17 – October 24 during school hours.*
- **Health Fair** - Inova Health System/Fairfax County Health Department  
*2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton (Unity of Fairfax Church) – Updates will be posted on the 2005 VolunteerFest Web site.*
- **Excavating the Essex**, an archeological dig - Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation  
*Tinner Hill Road, Falls Church – Excavation will be conducted between 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.*
- **Computer Recycling and Meditation Walk** - EcoStewards Alliance  
*2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton (Unity of Fairfax Church) – Both events will take place from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.*
- **Adopt a Soldier** - James Lee Community Center/Federal Express  
*2855-A James Lee Street, Falls Church – Updates will be posted on the 2005 VolunteerFest Web site.*
- **Event Promotions** - Providence Players/Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs  
*2855-A James Lee Street, Falls Church (James Lee Community Center Theater) – The Providence Players 2005-2006 Season opens on October 14 at 7:30 p.m. with the production of Clare Boothe Luce's "The Women."*
- **Merrifield Festival** - Greater Merrifield Business Association  
*3020 Gallows Road, Fairfax (Luther Jackson Middle School) – Festivities will take place from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

More information on the 2005 Providence District VolunteerFest and Volunteer Fairfax VolunteerFest® events are available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/volunteer2005.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/volunteer2005.htm) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ▪

## Briarwood Park

### A Community Profile

The Fairfax County Park Authority is preparing to celebrate the opening of Briarwood Park this fall. The 2.7 acre park is located at the end of Zimple Drive just east and south of the interchange of Interstate 66 and Nutley Street. It features preserved woodlands, a playground, a basketball court, a picnic pavilion, and a series of trails. Briarwood Park is accessible to pedestrians at the end of Hideaway Road, off of Topaz Street across from Swanee Lane, or at the main entrance on Zimple Drive, which includes accessible parking. The Briarwood Park was constructed for the Park Authority and for residents to enjoy by Christopher Companies as a proffer commitment for a development.

This past spring, Briarwood also welcomed Habitat for Humanity's 50<sup>th</sup> house in the Northern Virginia area. The 50<sup>th</sup> house is one of four Habitat houses located in the community and near the park.

More information on Briarwood Park is available on the county web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/parks.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/parks.htm) or by calling the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, TTY 711. ■

*Clockwise: Chairman Connolly and Supervisor Smyth joined Habitat for Humanity at the ground breaking ceremony for the 50<sup>th</sup> house last spring; progress of the 50<sup>th</sup> house at the end of summer; picnic and play area; basketball court; grilling and picnic pavilion – located in the Briarwood Park.*



***Has there been a change in officers in your Homeowners or Civic Association? Please update us. Residents are welcomed to showcase their communities in the Providence e-newsletter to be distributed next year. If you wish to receive the Providence e-newsletter ~ "Providence Online" ~ please email us at [provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov) and state "e-newsletter subscription" in the subject line. ■***



## Proposed Senior Tax Relief Change

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on October 17, 2005 on an expansion of the Real Estate Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and Disabled. If the ordinance is approved, the net combined financial asset eligibility requirement for tax relief will increase from \$240,000 to the state maximum of \$340,000 for those who meet the age, disability and income requirements. The income will also be increased from \$52,000 to the fixed state maximum of \$72,000.

If the ordinance is adopted, the tax relief changes will be retroactive to all of tax year 2005, and existing applicants who have already been certified for some level of real estate tax relief for 2005 will not need to reapply. The Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will automatically review partial exemptions and adjust them as may be applicable for the second installment due in December. DTA will also re-examine any 2005 applications previously denied due to the existing income and asset limits. New applicants will still have to file for 2005 tax relief under the new limits should the Board of Supervisors approve the proposed changes.

More tax relief information is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Seniors.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Seniors.htm) or by calling 703-222-8234, TTY 711. ■

## Fairfax County & Senior Navigator

Fairfax County and Senior Navigator have formed a web-based partnership for residents who are caring for a family member who is elderly or has a disability; helping a loved one who lives in another part of Virginia; or searching for information and services.

Senior Navigator is a Web-based statewide information service that provides up-to-date health and aging information and resources for seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers in Virginia. Features include online access to nearly 19,000 public and private services in Virginia; hundreds of informative articles on health and aging; and an "Ask the Expert" feature that allows specialists to provide confidential answers to your questions. Ongoing coordination with Senior Navigator is facilitated by Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, of the county's Department of Family Services. The partnership has also established Senior Navigator Centers at all Fairfax County Public Libraries, community and senior centers where trained staff can assist residents who want to access services and information.

More information on Fairfax County and Senior Navigator is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfax.va.us/providence/Seniors.htm](http://www.fairfax.va.us/providence/Seniors.htm) or by calling Senior Navigator toll-free at 1-866-393-0957, TTY 711. ■

## Protect our Children

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children describes child sexual abuse and exploitation as an issue that is overwhelmingly devastating, largely unrecognized and under reported. News of missing and exploited children frequently depicts the consequences that all too often result from child sexual abuse. It is up to us to be vigilant and use all the tools available to keep our children safe. The internet is a wonderful educational and technological advance. This advancement also enables sexual predators, access to our children right in the very "safety" of our own homes. All too often, predators use the internet to gain the trust of children and lure them to meetings in the open community. When a predator is successful, these encounters typically result in abductions, sexual assault or worse.

However, the internet can also be used to our advantage by accessing the identity of sex offenders through the National Sex Offender Registry maintained by the Virginia State Police and available on the Public Notification Database. The database is searchable by specific name, zip code or for the county or state. Additionally, ChildSafeNet's signature P'CASO (Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders) Program represents a unique collaborative public/private partnership between ChildSafeNet, Inc, a non-profit organization and its first law enforcement partner, the Fairfax County Police Department. The mission of the P'CASO Program is to proactively combat sexual abuse and exploitation of our children at the local level and to educate local communities about risks to kids, both in their internet activities and in the open community.

More information on the National Sex Offender Registry is available on the following Web site at: [www.stopsexoffenders.com/statelistings.shtml](http://www.stopsexoffenders.com/statelistings.shtml) or the P'CASO Web site at: [www.ChildSafeNet.org](http://www.ChildSafeNet.org). ■

## School News

Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, School Board Chairman

### Opening Day

I am pleased to report that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) had a very successful opening day on September 6<sup>th</sup>. We opened this year with an estimated 165,000 students who attend 200 elementary, middle and high schools. As the current chairman of the School Board, I traveled with the Superintendent throughout the County to complete the traditional opening day site visits. Our first stop was the new South County Secondary School (SCSS) and we arrived within an hour after the start time. The school hallways were clear and we were rewarded at random stops at classrooms with teachers already fully engaged with their excited students in getting the new year underway.

The trajectory from October 1998 when the Lorton Prison Site was conveyed to the County from the federal government to this opening day has been just a few short years. The story is too lengthy and complex to tell here. Suffice it to say that the SCSS exemplifies what Fairfax can accomplish when wide-ranging governmental, private sector, and community interests collaborate in creative pursuit of a public good.

If there was a cloud in the otherwise clear blue sky of opening day it was our transportation program. FCPS owns and operates the second largest publicly owned school bus fleet in the country on routes covering the county's 399 square miles. We are experiencing an inability to attract enough drivers to staff our fleet of 1,547 buses. As a consequence, some of our approximately 110,000 students that we transport to and from school each day were picked up and delivered late. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver, please call 703-750-8540.

### Bond Referendum

The November 8, 2005 election ballot will include a bond referendum in the amount of \$246,325,000 to fund FCPS school renovations and construction. Voter authorization to issue bonds that will fund \$177 million for renovations, including Woodburn, Freedom Hill, Vienna, and Graham Road Elementary Schools that serve Providence residents; \$32.8 million for new construction, modular additions, and planning; and \$35 million for infrastructure management, including technology network upgrades, roof, air conditioning, and boiler replacements. Your support will ensure that our school buildings support our children's learning experience.

### The Future of Graham Road Elementary School

Graham Road Elementary School (GRES) is in need of significant physical improvements. The School Board plans to renovate GRES with support from voter-approved Bonds at its current location at Graham and Arlington Blvd (Route 50) or relocate the school to the site at Graham and Lee Highway where the Devonshire Administrative Center is located currently. Devonshire will be vacated when central administration building in Merrifield is opened in early 2006. A citizen group is evaluating alternative program designs for a renovated or newly built school that includes the potential for an innovative "community school" concept. While the school's primary purpose is educational, the facility would also provide broader community access to County services and public use opportunities. A community school would be a joint FCPS-Fairfax County partnership; in light of this possible approach, Supervisor Linda Smyth and I are closely coordinating on this opportunity. For additional questions on the status of this project, please call Harriet Hopkins at 703-246-3613 or me at 703-246-4783. ■



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM

The Fairfax County Youth Leadership Program is designed to educate and motivate high school students to become engaged citizens and leaders in the community. This program was initiated during the 1999 – 2000 school year by Fairfax County Government and in partnership with Fairfax County Public School. The goal of this initiative is to inspire young people to share their ideas and bring energy to local government and to help develop solutions to issues facing them and their communities.

More information on the Fairfax County Youth Leadership Program is available at the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb) or by calling 703-534-3387, TTY 711. ■



## **Demonstrating Innovation:**

### **A Stormwater Retrofit at the Providence Supervisor's Office**

*Recipient of the 2005 National Association of County's (NACo) Achievement Award  
(Environmental Excellence Category)*

Since our last newsletter, we have successfully started and completed the green roof and the rain garden/permeable pavers portions of this stormwater retrofit project. Much hard work and planning went into each project giving Fairfax County three working low impact development projects as a guide to help control stormwater runoff and pollution in Fairfax County. Each project was designed to collect rainwater and to then naturally filter it before it either goes into the storm drain or into the surrounding soil. The final result will be less concentrated flow and fewer pollutants entering streams during a storm event.

The green roof was started in May and was completed in one week by Prospect Water Co. The green roof is located on top of one of the sheds near the parking lot. The construction of the green roof consisted of many different water proofing layers and ended with a variety of sedum plants. A man-made mixture of soil was used to provide for proper infiltration for the roof and the plants. The green roof will be able to hold and filter rain water allowing for less water and pollutants entering the storm drain which would ultimately end up in the Chesapeake Bay.

The work for the rain garden/permeable pavers section of the project was done in conjunction with each other and will work together to store and filter rain water from the site. The project started when crew members from Department of Public Works and Environmental Services dug a large hole in the parking lot area and filled it with gravel and storm-tec pipes. The gravel gave about 40% more void spaces than the soil alone allowing for greater storage capacity. Storm-tec pipes were placed below the gravel, and will allow for approximately 1,200 cubic feet of more storage. Large pipes in the rain garden will allow water to flow into the storm-tec pipes for storage. Water will also be able to flow through the special soil mix in the rain garden and the pavers into the gravel below. All together the area under the pavers and rain garden will be able to hold approximately 6,000 cubic feet of water. The rain garden has been filled with many types of plants donated by Merrifield Garden Center. The plants include Redosier dogwood, American Smoketree, Dwarf Witherod Viburnum, Moonbeam Coreopsis, Side Oats Gamma, Moss phlox, Brown Eyed Susan, and Virginia Spiderwort. These plants were chosen for two main reasons - first they are native to Virginia and second they are heat and drought tolerant which is needed since water will flow quickly through the plant area.

More information about the Demonstrating Innovation project is available on the following county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/dcr\\_project\\_update.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/dcr_project_update.htm) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■



*Supervisor Smyth joined by Delegate Shannon (35<sup>th</sup> District), Sally Ormsby (Member, NVSWCD), Jimmie Jenkins (DPWES), Diane Hoffman (NVSWCD), Carl Bouchard and Russ Smith (DPWES), project work crew, staff and the community in the ground breaking ceremony for the Retention Rain Garden (left) and Permeable Pavers Project (right) - view of the completed project.*



## **Watershed Update:**

### **Cameron Run**

The Cameron Run Draft Watershed Management Plan Review was presented on July 14, 2005, will be finalized during the spring of 2006, after a public comment process.

### **Difficult Run**

The Steering Committee, in collaboration with the SAIC and KCI – watershed consultants, has been tirelessly working to create the Difficult Run Watershed draft plan, to be completed by October 2005. The draft plan will be followed by community workshops which will be held at various locations in the watershed and will address all proposed projects in the draft plan.

### **Middle Potomac**

The Middle Potomac Watershed comprises of numerous watersheds including Bull Neck Run, Dead Run, Pimmit Run, Scotts Run and Turkey Run. The Middle Potomac Watershed Steering Committee and two the watershed consultants, Institute for Environmental Negotiation and Woolpert, Inc. have been working with county officials to create a draft watershed plan for the Middle Potomac Watershed.

### **Accotink Creek**

The Accotink Creek Watershed project experienced a setback with its start date of fall 2005. The project has been tentatively rescheduled for the spring of 2006.

The county has been hosting several workshops to raise awareness of the health of county watersheds and how residents can contribute to shape the future of the watershed that they live in. At a workshop, residents can expect to learn about projects such as stream restoration and development that are being proposed to improve the watersheds. Thus, community input is an important part of the future of the county's watershed plans and residents are welcomed to participate in these processes.

More information on watersheds is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Watershed.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Watershed.htm); on the Watershed Management Planning Program Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty-watersheds.net](http://www.fairfaxcounty-watersheds.net) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ▪

## **Park News**

### **Sandburg Park (Railroad Street)**

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Dunn Loring residents, the Sandburg Park is soon to become a reality. The community, supported by the Providence Supervisor's Office, has worked tirelessly with the Park Authority to create the 17,040 square foot park. The park will be located on South Railroad Street from Sandburg Place to 4th Place. Land for the park has come from a dedication proffered under a development plan and vacated right-of-way. The park is slated for a play area for the community to enjoy.

### **Oakton Community Park**

Oakton Community Park will be approximately 9.8 acres located near Oakcrest Farms to the north, Lewis Manor to the east, English Oaks to the south, and Hunterbrooke to the west across Hunter Mill Road. Over half the site will remain wooded with a loop trail and a trails connection to adjacent neighborhoods. Along with the wooded area, two preservation zones are planned to protect significant tree specimens in the southern portion of the site. Two small picnic pavilions, a small playground, and a rectangular athletic field are also planned for the site. The Plans also provides a location for a historic structure, such as the Oakton Schoolhouse.

More park information is available on the following county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Parks.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Parks.htm) or by calling the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8702, TTY 711. ▪

## Providence District 2005 APR Stops Over 2,300 New Homes

The Area Plans Review (APR) is the process that the County initiates every four years to update and amend the Comprehensive Plan, Fairfax County's guide to development and land use. Nominations to amend the Plan were reviewed by County Planning Staff and the Providence District APR Task Force, which was made up of citizen representatives. Staff and APR Task Force recommendations were then sent to the Planning Commission for their review and, if approved, were sent to the Board of Supervisors for final consideration.

The misconception that creeping density is threatening stable residential neighborhoods was disproved by the process. The Providence District 2005 Area Plans Review demonstrated once again that the process works to protect and preserve stable residential neighborhoods.

Sixteen applications to amend the compressive plan in the Providence District were submitted. Many of the applications included requests to increase potential density. A proposal for 38 acres in Merrifield to triple the permitted density to over 1,000 dwelling units was withdrawn by the applicant after a negative review by the task force and county staff. A proposal to redevelop the 42 acre single family subdivision Poplar Terrace, located just west of the Vienna Metro, with over 1300 dwelling units and 24,000 sq. ft of retail space was denied.

The Board of Supervisors approved four changes to the Comprehensive Plan in Providence District. No increases in density were approved. One change permitted the limited extension of sewer service for a school athletic field restroom in Oakton. The other three provided reductions in density: the Stenwood subdivision, located north of the Dunn Loring Metro, reduced from 5-8 to 3-4 dwelling units per acre, reduction of the density of the Wedderburn property from 2-3 to 1-2 dwelling units per acre; and the conversion of an office use to a less intense residential use in the Fairfax Center Area.

One of the primary objectives of the *Policy Plan of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan* states that; "Fairfax County should encourage a land use pattern that protects, enhances and or maintains stability in established residential neighborhoods." By maintaining the existing plan and reducing densities this objective was upheld again by the APR process. The 79 Homeowner and Civic Association representatives that served on the Task Force, Joe Annunziata and Renata Wade who Co-Chaired the Task Force, and the Providence District Planning Commissioner Ken Lawrence all deserve our thanks for the time, hard work and thoughtful evaluations they provided.

More information on the Providence District 2005 APR is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Area\\_Plans.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Area_Plans.htm) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■

## Community Emergency Alert Network

Fairfax County uses the Community Emergency Alert Network, or CEAN, to deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency. CEAN will deliver messages to all the following registered devices: e-mail account, cell phone, text pager, satellite phone and wireless PDA. When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders will notify residents using this alert network. This notification will be a connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, protective actions that need to be taken and other vital information.

The CEAN is intended for the use of county residents as well as people who work in Fairfax County. This service is dependent upon external services such as your individual wireless carrier or e-mail delivery service. Fairfax County Government can make no guarantees that notifications will be received by the intended recipient. Service costs from your carrier are your responsibility

More information on CEAN is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/) or by calling the Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line at 703-817-7771, TTY 711. ■



## Quality Customer Service Program

All solid waste collection companies operating in Fairfax County are permitted by Fairfax County and are required to be bonded, insured and to operate within the County code. The Quality Customer Service Program is a voluntary program, developed through a joint effort of the Solid Waste Task Force, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the solid waste collection firms operating in the county, and the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management program.

The program is intended to provide customers with a general understanding of waste collection and recycling practices and the standards of customer service they can expect from their collectors. Collection companies that participate in this program have committed to provide their customers with a high level of service for their solid waste needs. These commitments enhance safety, timeliness and environmentally sound waste collection and the level of customer satisfaction with these services.

Fairfax County is responsible for enforcing compliance with the county's waste collection activities under the county code. However, the Quality Customer Service Standards document is not a code enforceable document.

Homeowner associations and individuals entering into contracts with a specific company for solid waste and recycling services may consider incorporating the Quality Customer Service Standards into that contract, in which case they may be contractually enforceable on a civil basis.

Fairfax County provides a wide array of waste services outside of the normal trash collection provided by your private contractor. These include disposal at County disposal sites for household hazardous waste, special pickups, brush, and yard waste and recyclable materials.

More information on the Quality Customer Service Standards and the solid waste collection firms who have adopted the Standards is available on the county's Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/swtf/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/swtf/) or by calling 703-324-5230, TTY 711.

More information on recycling services and disposal facilities is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/recyclingtrash.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/recyclingtrash.htm) or by calling 703-324-5230, TTY 711 and for sanitary districts at 703-802-3322, TTY 711. ■

## General and Special Elections

On Tuesday, November 8, qualified voters in Fairfax County will be voting for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, 17 members of the House of Delegates and a county school bond issue. All polling places will be open from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Any eligible voter who is in line by 7 p.m. will be permitted to vote.

The deadline to register to vote or to submit a change-of-address for this election is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11.

The Electoral Board has begun mailing absentee ballots to voters by the end of September. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Electoral Board by 7 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not accept postmarks. Absentee voters must mark their ballots in accordance with the instructions and complete all required information on the return envelope to ensure their votes are counted.

Beginning September 26 to October 17, in-person voting will be available in the Office of the Electoral Board and General Registrar located at the Government Center Building.

More information on the November 8 General and Special Elections is available on the Electoral Board's Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb) or by calling the Office of the Electoral Board and General Registrar at 703-324-4735, TTY 711. ■

## Come Enjoy the Merrifield Festival!

**October 22, 2005**

**9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

***Luther Jackson Middle School  
3020 Gallows Road***

The Greater Merrifield Business Association welcomes all residents to the First Annual Merrifield Festival. Come and enjoy a day filled with the sights and sounds of Merrifield: demonstrations by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Safety, Fairfax County Police and K-9 Unit, Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Workshop, basketball free throw competitions, take part in sight and hearing screening hosted by the Lion's Club or create a project offered by Home Depot, plus food vendors, arts and crafts, moon bounce and face painting and much more! ■

## Park Message

Joanne Malone, Providence District Park Representative

We have had a wonderful concert series at Nottoway Nights this summer featuring among others The Seldom Scene, a Bluegrass band, talented folksinger John McCutcheon and a Dixieland band Jefferson Street Strutters. Many thanks to the Friends of Nottoway, a volunteer group that offers their time and expertise to activities at Nottoway Park. Without our volunteers in the Parks we would not be the nationally acclaimed Park system that we are today. Maybe it is time to think about enrolling in some classes at Providence or Oak Marr Recreation Centers to exercise or to learn a new dance step; or use the facilities swimming, fitness equipment, racquetball, etc. Have a child's birthday coming up? Consult with our activities specialist for ideas. Holidays are not far away – think about gourmet cooking or crafts. Enjoy our Cross County Trail (CCT) system. The North-South connector from Wadebrook Terrace off Rolling Road – in the South to Great Falls Park on the Potomac River – in the North. The trail meanders through a section of all the districts in Fairfax County and is expected to be completed by the end of 2005. See you in the Parks! ▪

## The W&OD Trail Vegetation Management Agreement

Barbara P. Hildreth, Chairman, W&OD Task Force

*Arbor Day* marked a historic event in the life of The W&OD Trail - an Agreement was signed by Dominion Virginia Power (*Dominion*) and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (*NVRPA*), guiding the power company's management of vegetation along the Trail where Dominion has overhead high-voltage transmission lines.

For three decades, the needs of the power company had been balanced with the needs of the trail managers and users. This working relationship changed in 2002 when Dominion began an aggressive program of cutting down large trees beside the Trail, especially in Providence District. Citizens were outraged at what looked like needless destruction of century-old oaks and large maples. Dominion claimed that these trees which had been trimmed over the years were now weakened and rather than wait until a tree fell on transmission lines, better to remove them now and replace them with trees of a lower height. Trail users objected to the drastic cutting which eliminated shade and wildlife habitat, caused erosion and affected stream quality, as well as hurting the esthetic qualities of this National Trail.

On June 28, 2004, state Delegates Jim Scott and Steve Shannon called a meeting of all interested parties, which culminated in formation of a Task Force comprised of residents and experts from the county and Dominion power to address these issues. The Task Force convened on the Trail to talk about Dominion's objectives and methods of trimming and cutting. The next meetings, hosted by Supervisor Smyth, discussed terminology and clarified expectations; as the different points of view were written down, some areas of agreement began to emerge. Specific topics were compiled into a working paper and were discussed in several sessions of the Task force, joined by Vienna Mayor Jane Seeman, Bob Munson (Bureau Manager, Virginia Department of Conservation Resources) and Tom Lamm (Assistant Director, Division of Energy Regulation, State Corporation Commission). After several rounds of fine-tuning, an Agreement was ready to be signed by both parties.

On Arbor Day, April 29, 2005, NVRPA Board Chairman Bill Dickinson and John Smatlak, Director of Electric Transmission for Dominion Virginia Power, met in the rain by the Trail at Cedar Lane. In attendance were members of the Task Force, Supervisor Smyth and Board Chairman Connolly, NVRPA Board members representing Fairfax County, Jean Packard and Paul Gilbert, and many other supporters of the W&OD. To commemorate the signing, (as the sun came out!), Dominion planted a native Virginia Fringe Tree beside the Trail.

That ended Part I – now for Part II: The development of vegetation along the Trail according to a Master Plan which will involve Dominion, NVRPA, and citizens. Implementation of this Plan will take time and careful thought but we know the future of the W&OD Trail will be governed by the terms of an Agreement which will add one more reason each year to celebrate Arbor Day. ▪

The W&OD Trail Vegetation Management Agreement is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/PDFFiles/pressreleasedominion.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/PDFFiles/pressreleasedominion.pdf) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ▪

## Transportation News

### Vienna Metro

In May of 2005, Supervisor Smyth and Supervisor Kauffman (Lee District) in a joint board matter requested the Board of Supervisors to authorize one million dollars to conduct a study and begin preliminary engineering for a new parking garage at the Vienna Metro Station. The new Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) parking garage will replace the currently WMATA owned surface and the privately owned temporary parking lots. The funding will be taken from Fairfax County's share of WMATA parking fees.

### Shreve Road Truck Ban

After much deliberation, the Shreve Road truck ban will soon be a reality. In July of 2004 a formal request was made to VDOT for a truck ban on Shreve Road. Initially, VDOT had denied the ban because the road did not meet VDOT criteria for the ban. Supervisor Smyth, in collaboration with area's residents, interceded and made VDOT take another look at the way they classified Shreve Road. In July of 2005 after subsequent conversations, VDOT reconsidered and approved the truck ban for Shreve Road, and it is expected to be in place in the near future.

### HAZMAT Truck Ban on Hunter Mill Road

The Hunter Mill Defense League and the Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee, with support from Supervisors in the Dranesville, Huntermill, Sully, and Providence Districts, requested a HAZMAT truck ban on Hunter Mill Road. On May 23, 2005, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution asking VDOT to conduct a feasibility study for the banning of HAZMAT trucks along Hunter Mill Road. VDOT will study the local road network and seek input from local residents, businesses and the trucking industry before designating a HAZMAT truck prohibition. If accepted by VDOT, the ban would be implemented through the County's Residential Traffic Administrative Program (R-TAP). More than 2500 homes, six schools and day care centers, and five churches are located along the corridor of Hunter Mill Road.

More transportation information is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/Providence/Transportation\\_Links.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/Providence/Transportation_Links.htm) or by calling

## Save the date

**Fire Prevention Week**  
October 9 – 15

**2005 Providence District VolunteerFest**  
October 22 – all day event

**Merrifield Festival**  
October 22 – 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Senior Tax Relief Workshop**  
November 9 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More information on upcoming and ongoing events is available at the following county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming\\_Events.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming_Events.htm) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■

## Transportation and Urban Design Study Coordinating Committee

In July 2004, the Planning Commission, at the Board's request, deferred all rail-related APR nominations in Tysons Corner pending a Special Study to evaluate the area's transportation system and review Tysons Corner rail related Plan recommendations. During the FY 2004 Carryover Budget Review, the Board provided funding (\$400,000) to obtain technical assistance for traffic modeling and urban design for this Special Study.

On March 21, 2005, the Board of Supervisors established the Tysons Corner Transportation and Urban Design Study Coordinating Committee to work with staff during the special study and to help coordinate public outreach and public input. The Coordinating Committee is currently comprised of members of Board appointed commissions and committees including the Planning Commission, the Transportation Advisory Commission, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, the Disability Services Board, representatives from each Supervisory District, the Chamber of Commerce, TYTRAN, and the Tyson's area neighborhoods.

More information on the Coordinating Committee is available on the county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Transportation\\_Links.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Transportation_Links.htm) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■

# Must-Have Phone Numbers

**Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

<b>Adult Education</b>	703-227-2200	<b>Alcohol/drug abuse services</b>	703-359-7040
<b>Animal Shelter</b>	703-830-3310	<b>Child care</b>	703-449-9555
<b>Consumer Affairs</b>	703-222-8435	<b>Courts</b>	703-691-7320
<b>Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)</b>	800-435-5137	<b>I-66 Disposal Sites</b>	703-631-1179
<b>Emergency</b>	911	<b>Fastran</b>	703-222-9764
<b>Fire/rescue</b> (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	<b>Gang Unit-Police</b>	703-246-4548
<b>Human Services</b>	703-222-0880	<b>Office for Women</b>	703-324-5730
<b>Park Authority</b>	703-324-8700	<b>Police</b> (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
<b>Tax Information</b>	703-222-8234	<b>Recreation Classes</b>	703-324-5550
<b>Recycling InfoLine</b>	703-324-5052	<b>School-Age Child Care Program</b>	703-449-8989
<b>School information</b>	703-246-2502	<b>Senior Citizen Information</b>	703-324-5411
<b>Traffic Tickets</b>	703-246-3764	<b>Trash Pick-up (County)</b>	703-802-3322
<b>VDOT</b>	703-383-VDOT	<b>Voting Information</b>	703-222-0776
For any number listed here or elsewhere in TTY, please call 703-803-7914 TTY or the 703-222-0880 voice intake number.			

**Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**  
**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**  
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